

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 27, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our serious concerns about the record high cost of fertilizer impacting American farmers. Fertilizer prices are a major expense for producers and this crisis will further exacerbate rising food prices and hurt rural economies. In light of this growing challenge impacting American farmers, we were frustrated by comments made by your Director for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Samantha Power. We ask that you clarify your administration's position on the fertilizer crisis.

In February 2022 the United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service found an annual price increase of 235 percent for anhydrous ammonia, 149 percent for urea, and 192 percent for liquid nitrogen.¹ There are several reasons for the increase in prices including ongoing supply chain issues, rising energy costs, and geopolitical instability. The bottom line is that American farmers and consumers will continue to be harmed by ever increasing prices unless these issues are resolved.

Recent comments by USAID Director Samantha Power raise concerns that your administration is not taking the problem seriously. During an interview in response to a question on global food shortages Powers said, "[W]e're working with countries to think about natural solutions like manure and compost. And this may hasten transitions that would have been in the interest of farmers to make eventually anyway. So never let a good crisis go to waste."²

We ask that you answer the following questions as soon as practicably possible:

- Is the official position of your administration that the spike in fertilizer prices is a positive outcome?
 - If not, will you be asking Director Power to retract her statement?
- Is the official position of your administration that farmers should move away from using fertilizer?
 - If so, how would the United States continue to maintain high yields?

¹ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/chart-gallery/gallery/chart-detail/?chartId=103194>

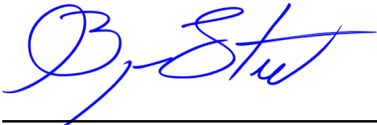
² <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/may-01-2022-administrator-samantha-power-abcs-this-week-george-stephanopoulos>

- Does this mean that your administration is calling for an increase in herd sizes to provide for the increased need of manure? Do you no longer support the Green New Deal and its attacks on agriculture?

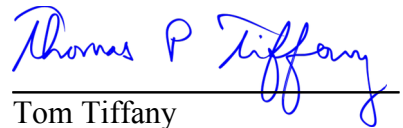
We have strong concerns that Director Powers' statements reflect your administrations misunderstanding of our ability to replace the need for fertilizer. America needs real action to increase fertilizer production, not empty rhetoric.

Americans are already facing record high inflation. We urge your administration to take swift action to combat record high fertilizer prices to provide relief to farmers and families across the nation.

Sincerely,



Bryan Steil
Member of Congress



Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress



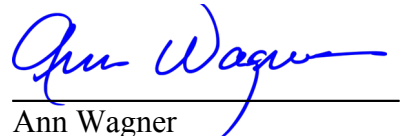
Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Lisa C. McClain
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress